

First Principles.

NATIONAL SECURITY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES

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January 7, 1976 "Authoritative sources" disclosed that the CIA is providing \$6 million to Italian centrist parties, apparently in a program modeled on the 1948 effort. In spite of divergence from Moscow's line, Secretary of State Kissinger reportedly was worried about the effect Communist participation in Western European government would have on the NATO alliance. (*Washington Post*, 1/7/76, p. 1A)

January 10, 1976 The *San Diego Union* reported that an ultra-right wing group, the Secret Army Organization, carried out burglaries, bombings, threats and shootings to disrupt the anti-war movement and was led by a paid FBI informant who swore before a 1972 grand jury that he founded the organization on orders from the FBI. The ACLU has submitted a report to the Senate Intelligence Committee which asserts that the FBI was responsible for death plots against San Diego leftists.

January 11, 1976 Documents released under the Freedom of Information Act to the *Washington Star* revealed that the police departments in the D.C. area had received extensive training from the CIA in "clandestine collection methodology," including safecracking, burglary, and wall replastering. The documents contained letters praising the CIA from police chiefs who had elsewhere denied any direct knowledge of the CIA liaison, as well as documentation of cover-up efforts to conceal

the program from reporters and Congress. (*Washington Star*, 1/11/76, p. A1)

January 11, 1976 The CIA file concerning the death in 1954 of Dr. Frank Olson, an unwitting subject for an LSD experiment, contained numerous contradictions which CIA spokespersons declined to explain. These included statements both that those employees responsible for the experiment were reprimanded and that they were not reprimanded. Another document indicated that it was not until 1973 that drug experiments on unwitting Americans were prohibited.

January 17, 1976 Testimony before the House Committee on Intelligence confirmed that the CIA's "covert media projects" overseas have resulted in the "contamination" of press coverage in the United States. A CIA coordinating committee warns a few U.S. officials of which stories are CIA fabrications, but the U.S. public has no way of knowing. (*Washington Post*, 1/17/76, p. A1)

January 20, 1976 Justice Department attorneys concluded that CIA officials involved in assassination plots against foreign leaders could not be prosecuted under existing U.S. law. Neither federal conspiracy nor D.C. murder statutes were considered appropriate. The CIA has now agreed to review for release its materials on assassinations given to the Rockefeller Commission. These documents are the subject of an

FOIA lawsuit filed by the ACLU. Still pending are decisions as to whether to issue indictments for the mail opening program, wiretap violations, burglary, and perjury. (*New York Times*, 1/21/76, p. A1)

January 25, 1976 Former FBI intelligence officials stated that they did not believe that J. Edgar Hoover would have recommended the wiretapping of 17 government officials and journalists, including Morton Halperin. Their statements and Nixon's sealed testimony contradict Secretary of State Kissinger's claim that Hoover selected "potential tap victims."

January 30, 1976 The *New York Times* received documents under the Freedom of Information Act which confirmed the allegation of former *Times* reporter Wayne Phillips that the CIA had attempted to recruit him in 1952. In response to a 1973 *Times* inquiry whether *Times* personnel were involved with the agency, then-DCI William Colby had assured the paper none had. (*New York Times*, 1/31/76, p. 28)

January 28, 1976 The ACLU has requested that Secretary of State Henry Kissinger publicly withdraw the requirement that members of officially-sponsored performing arts groups touring abroad submit before publication any writings about the tours to the State Department for "agreement." ACLU Legal Director Melvin Wulf called the requirement an infringement of the First Amendment guarantee of free speech.

In The News

It is at all times necessary, and more particularly so during the progress of a revolution and until right ideas confirm themselves by habit, that we frequently refresh our patriotism by reference to first principles.

THOMAS PAINE